# United Nations

## Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

• Normalization of Haitian Parliament yesterday welcomed by Special Envoy of Secretaries-General of United Nations and Organization of American States (OAS) in Haiti; says sanctions could be lifted once Prime Minister is ratified.

• Conference on Disarmament gives mandate to its Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty; decides to invite participation of International Atomic Energy Agency.

• Fifteen troop-contributing countries express concern over delays in reimbursement of expenses; warn that timely repayment is essential for sustained participation in peace-keeping operations.

• Secretary-General appoints Professor Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large in Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, as Special Envoy to lead mission to Russian Federation, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

• The sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution are universal phenomena, Special Rapporteur tells Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

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The action taken yesterday to normalize the Haitian Parliament was welcomed by the Special Envoy of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) in Haiti, Dante Caputo.

He said that the action strengthened the democratization process established in the Governors Island Agreement and in the Pact of New York. He expressed the hope that it would be followed promptly by the ratification of the Prime Minister, leading to the return of democracy.

Once that had occurred, the Special Envoy said, the United Nations Secretary-General would recommend to the Security Council the immediate suspension of the sanctions against Haiti, imposed in June in an effort to restore constitutional rule. The international community's technical

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assistance and financial aid programme for the country would then be initiated, Mr. Caputo said.

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In a move described by many participants as historic, the Conference on Disarmament decided in Geneva yesterday to give its Ad Hoc Committee a mandate to negotiate a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. The decision expressed the conviction of the Conference that, in order to contribute effectively to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, to disarmament and to international peace, a complete test ban treaty must be universal and effectively verifiable.

As the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, the Conference stated that it was the appropriate forum for conducting negotiations on such a treaty. It also decided yesterday to invite the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to participate in the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, and to inquire as to what role the IAEA might play in implementing such a treaty.

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A group of troop-contributing countries have written to the Secretary-General to express their concern over delays in the reimbursement of the expenses they incur in that connection. The aide-memoire was handed to the Secretary-General in a meeting he held with the representatives of the Permanent Missions of Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, Egypt, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

Their countries contributed troops and equipment, they said, because they were mindful of the collective responsibility of Member States to maintain international peace and security. That entailed a considerable financial burden. Delays in reimbursing troop costs and compensations could make it difficult to participate in United Nations peace-keeping operations, particularly for the developing countries. The representatives expressed their willingness to cooperate to devise ways and means to find solutions to the problem.

The Secretary-General, in letters to the Member States last week about the financial predicament facing the Organization, had stated that troop-contributing countries were owed $360 million. Outstanding contributions to the peace-keeping operations totaled $1,193 million.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint Professor Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, as his Special Envoy to lead a mission to the Russian Federation, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, effective 21 August.

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Professor Koh served for many years as his country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. He was President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (1981-1982) and Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

The two-week mission, scheduled to depart from New York on 28 August, will focus on the withdrawal of foreign military forces from the Baltic States, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/21.

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The sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution were universal phenomena, the Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur on the sale of children told the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities today, as it began its continued consideration of issues relating to the protection of children and women.

Although the character and degree of such activities varied from country to country, their global nature was of concern, said Vitit Muntarbhorn, the Special Rapporteur. Eastern Europe was an example of a new market for the sale of children, child prostitution and exploitation, and child pornography was rampant both in Europe and the United States. In Asia, where the risk of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) infection was high, children were coerced into prostitution to serve European and Australian clients.

Although the international nature of such abuses made them difficult to combat, he continued, improved prevention was needed. Poverty elimination, improved employment and education opportunities, measures to bolster the family support structure and broadened anti-crime measures were called for. In addition, industries in which child abuse occurred, such as tourism, video and publishing, must be held accountable for any violations.

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